

**LUMPKIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
*Joint Public Meeting Agenda*  
Lumpkin County Park & Recreation Community Center  
Activity Main Room  
365 Riley Road  
Dahlonega, Georgia**

**March 31, 2009  
4:00 P.M.**

**WELCOME**

Dr. Raber

**1) INTRODUCTIONS**

**2) OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY  
EACH REPRESENTED ENTITY 3-5 minutes each**

- Lumpkin County - BOC
- City of Dahlonega - CITY
- Lumpkin County Schools - SCHOOLS
- College - NGCSU

**3) CURRENT MUTUAL AID BETWEEN EACH REPRESENTED ENTITY  
3-5 minutes each**

- Lumpkin County - BOC
- City of Dahlonega - CITY
- Lumpkin County Schools - SCHOOLS
- College - NGCSU

**4) POSSIBLE AVENUES OF FUTURE MUTUAL AID - OPEN DISCUSSION**

**5) FUTURE JOINT MEETINGS - OPEN DISCUSSION**

\* For Items # 1 & # 2 please designate 2 people to be your spokes person. If you need any visual aids please notify us ASAP

**ADJOURN**

Dr. Raber

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
LUMPKIN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY**

March 31, 2009

Chairman Raber began the meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Activity Main Room at the Lumpkin County Park & Recreation Community Center. Present were Chairman John Raber, Commissioners Bill Scott, Tim Bowden, Clarence Stowers, Clarence Grindle, County Manager Stan Kelley, and County Attorney K. C. Horne, Jr. Chairman Raber explained that the purpose of the meeting was open dialogue between the four groups present.

***Motion:** Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. This motion was seconded by Tim Bowden and approved by all district commissioners. Motion carried.*

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Representing the City of Dahlonega were Mayor Gary McCullough, City Council Members Ralph Prescott, Johnny Ariemma, Michael Clemons, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, City Manager Bill Lewis, and City Attorney J. Douglas Parks. Council Member Gerald Lord was not in attendance.

Representing Lumpkin County Schools were Lumpkin County Schools Superintendent Dewey Moye and Director of Operations Greg Trammell.

North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) was represented by the President of the University, Dr. David Potter, Dean of Education Dr. Robert Michael, and Director of Public Safety Mike Stapleton.

**OVERVIEW**

County Manager Stan Kelley gave a PowerPoint overview of county services pointing out the number of calls for service made to Fire/EMS and the Sheriff's Office in 2008. He said that county services included the courts, planning and engineering, roads and bridges, parks and recreation, senior services and tax assessors. Mr. Kelley also called attention to the amount of the county that is national forest and therefore is non-taxable. He then listed current cooperative services, including inmate services, Park and Recreation facilities (Yahoola Creek Park), G.I.S., school resources officers, NGCSU Internships, joint facility agreements, City Law Enforcement Contract, Library, Fire/EMS/EMA Services, Health Department, Cooperative Extension Services in which the county currently cooperates with some or all of the other entities attending the meeting. Mr. Kelley said that he may have overlooked some cooperative services.

City Manager Bill Lewis spoke about city services such as municipal court, two cemeteries, two parks, code enforcement, and water and sewer fund. He said that no tax money is used to operate the water and sewer enterprise fund. Other services include the reservoir, water treatment, water distribution, the sewer treatment plant, and lift station operations. Mr. Lewis said there is major debt on the water and sewer funds, and that upgrades are needed on the current treatment plant and downtown sewage system. Like the county the city has several boards and commissions.

Superintendent Moye said they are anticipating a \$2 million deficit this year. He spoke of use of school facilities by Park and Recreation, Boy Scouts, 4H, Rabies Clinics, and other community activities. He said the biggest issue for them is the number of current students (4,000) and managing future growth. The Superintendent said they instituted budget reductions starting in 2002. They do not anticipate any layoffs but are handling this by attrition. They hope to create a Quick Start Program at the high school and provide more technical training in conjunction with a technical college within the next few years.

Dr. David Potter spoke about the NGCSU satellite currently operated in Gainesville and said they will be growing the satellite in Forsyth County. Their state appropriation was cut 10% this year and they anticipate this

will not be restored next year. In fact, they may face an additional cut on top of the 10%. He said their biggest challenge is managing growth in a way that doesn't overwhelm or change the identity of the university or affect the community. Another concern is the aging campus. They want to aggressively build student housing for both civilian students and cadets. If they receive all the money they asked for Dr. Potter said they want to renovate three of the older buildings next year.

#### **COOPERATIVE MUTUAL AID**

Mayor McCullough gave use of the City County Chamber the past four years by the Board of Commissioners as an example of cooperation. He spoke about the joint City-County ownership of the Chamber of Commerce building, and joint projects like the reservoir, fire department, Morrison Moore by-pass, the hospital and Torrington (now Timkin) as examples of past cooperation. He said that currently there is a joint agreement between the County, City, School, and NGCSU on Pictometry. There was discussion about cooperation on reservoir management between the county and city. He then spoke of mutual cooperation by the city with NGCSU and the Lumpkin County School System.

Superintendent Moya said the schools cooperate by sharing the cost of SRO in every school, shared use of facilities such as the gyms, and Health Department immunizations. He pointed out the 50% poverty rate among students and said they will provide free breakfast and lunch for summer students. He said that 38 volunteers from the college are presently working in the schools,

Dr. Potter commented on the university's relationship with the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office, with the schools on emergency planning issues, student teachers for the schools, instructional assistance to current teachers, leadership development with schools, the cooperation between the Corps of Cadets and JROTC at Lumpkin County High School, facilities and infrastructure issues of cooperation with the city, working with the city and county on major events such as Gold Rush, the Yahoola Creek tennis project, other athletic fields, economic development participation with both the city and county, the North Georgia Project (One Georgia), leadership development opportunities such as Leadership Lumpkin, their relationship with non-profits, the internship program with the county, and the North Georgia Clinic. He said they are eager to be involved in more and said he thinks the four groups working together will help the area keep its identity as growth occurs.

Chairman Raber spoke of the need to cooperate, especially in this time of economic difficulty.

#### **POSSIBLE AVENUES OF FUTURE MUTUAL AID**

Commissioner Scott said dialogue needs to remain open between the four groups. Dr. Potter agreed and said it would be good if there was some avenue to share what each is doing on an ongoing basis. Dean of Education Robert Michael said they want to put faculty at the middle school to work directly with middle school teachers, provide classes at the middle school and use the middle school as a teaching field. He said they also want a career academy/technical school to provide students with a technical track. They also are discussing early college opportunity.

Dr. Potter said 87% of students graduate. This is the highest percentage for North Georgia and one of the top ten in the state. However, we are turning out students and can't deliver jobs so they leave the county. The schools and college are talking about college use of school buildings in the evening and summer because the college has overflow problems. Dr. Potter said other schools besides education also need to get their students out more in the community for field training. Commissioner Bowden agreed we need to focus on our young people even though we may be a retirement magnet.

Chairman Raber spoke of Mountain Education Center and how it helps our community.

Lumpkin County Development Authority Director Bruce Abraham said the university and Lumpkin County Schools are both tremendously good at cooperative endeavors. At this the discussion turned to technology and its future importance to jobs in the county.

City Councilman Johnny Ariemma said he thinks green technology is an area where the county, city, schools and university should work together. He said we need to determine how to obtain green technology grants which are being promoted by the Obama administration. Superintendent Moye said this could help to keep our community green. The school is currently using and monitoring one solar panel. If that panel looks useful they may try to move more toward solar energy in the future. Ariemma mentioned use of restaurant waste to fuel vehicles. Consensus from the participants was that this should be investigated. The schools, for example, have 55 buses which get only between 3 – 5 mpg.

City Manager Lewis said he thinks we should all encourage our legislature to pass what will bring people to this community and not drive the young away. Superintendent Moye said blanket exemptions are a bad idea when it does not have an income cap. There was concern expressed about how some of these exemptions are implemented. City Manager Lewis and Superintendent Moye agreed that we need to be unified and obtain an appointment with the governor and in Washington D.C. City Manager Lewis said the Chamber should be included in the group as well.

City Councilman Clemons expressed his concern that we do more than talk about cooperation but take action to cooperate.

#### **FUTURE JOINT MEETINGS**

Superintendent Moye offered Lumpkin County Schools as host for the next meeting. Each group will appoint a representative for an agenda forming meeting to create an action-oriented agenda prior to the next meeting. Superintendent Moye said he wants us to get something on the table about green technology. Dr. Potter will find someone through the college who can give some direction. Dr. Potter said he thinks fiber optic is the other area he would like to see pursued. Greg Trammell said there is a grant available for sidewalk improvements from DOT. They will fund it every year at \$500,000 grant with no match.

Commissioner Stowers said he thinks transportation and water should be on the agenda. City Manager Lewis said they have a master plan for water and have a 50-year projection.

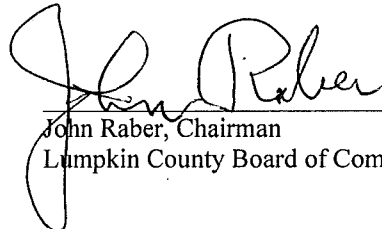
Appointments will be made to the agenda committee and Chairman Raber will be advised. Dr. Potter said he will have his assistant contact each of the three other groups to get things scheduled. They are considering May for the agenda setting meeting.

#### **ADJOURN**

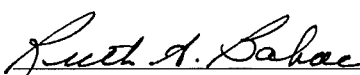
There being no further business Chairman Raber thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

***Motion:** Commissioner Stowers moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m. This motion was seconded by Bill Scott and approved by Commissioners Scott, Bowden, Stowers and Grindle. Motion carried.*

4/16/2009  
Date

  
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John Raber, Chairman  
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

  
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Ruth A. Bohac  
Clerk, Lumpkin County